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SENATOR ULYSSES CURRIE'S CAMPAIGN TREASURER PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT OVER \$100,000.00 FROM CAMPAIGN FUNDS

The State Prosecutor, Emmet C. Davitt, announced today that Senator Ulysses Currie's campaign treasurer, Olivia Harris, entered a guilty plea to the charge of Theft Scheme Over \$100,000.00 before the Honorable Paul A. Hackner in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court.

In a statement of facts presented to the court, the State explained that from January 2007 through April 2010, Ms. Harris made over 350 ATM withdrawals from the campaign fund account for her personal use, totaling \$157,350.00. Most of these withdrawals were made at 2 ATM machines located approximately one mile from Harris' Upper Marlboro home. Harris was able to continue with this scheme for years undetected as she did all the banking for the committee and was responsible for filing all of the committee's campaign finance reports with the State Board of Elections. She failed to report the withdrawals on the reports, in turn causing the campaign's funds to be greatly over reported. There is no indication that Senator Currie was aware of Harris' withdrawals. Harris also failed to declare the ill-gotten monies on her income tax filings accruing unpaid tax liability totaling \$9,022.00 to the State of Maryland.

The maximum penalty for Theft Scheme Over \$100,000.00 is a sentence of imprisonment of not more than twenty-five (25) years and a \$25,000 fine or both. Judge Hackner ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation and Report and deferred sentencing until March 30, 2011.

State Prosecutor Emmet Davitt commented "Campaign officers are fiduciaries of the contributions that are committed to them. When they violate that trust, we will hold them accountable".